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LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to state to you that, in spite of the dreadful destruction of Iraq's civilian facilities and infrastructure caused by the forces of the United States and their allies during their military operations, these forces are still persisting in violating the sovereignty of Iraq, destabilizing its internal security and intervening in its internal affairs under cover of international legitimacy. The helicopters of the United States of America and its allies have continued to fly inside the airspace of Dohuk governorate on the way to the Fayidah area in the north of Iraq and coming from Turkish airspace for purposes of reconnaissance, observation and transporting officers of the allied forces to the Sarsank and Amadiyah areas for the purpose of holding meetings with some of the elements cooperating with them in the area. Below is a summary of observed cases of these violations during the period from 1 to 15 August 1991:

1. On 1 August 1991, four helicopters landed in the Sarsank area, and a number of officers alighted.

2. On 4 August 1991, two helicopters flew over the town of Dohuk on the way to Aridat Dehkan.

3. On 5 August 1991, two helicopters flew over the LMSh 486 sector in the Aridat area at a low altitude.

4. On 7 August 1991, a helicopter landed in the Amadiyah district, and a number of officers alighted from it.

5. On 9 August 1991, three helicopters flew over Fayidah camp, and this was followed by the flight of two other helicopters in the area.

6. On 11 August 1991, four helicopters flew over the Fayidah area and then turned towards the Shaykhan area.

7. On 12 August 1991, four helicopters flew over the headquarters of the Internal Security Second Command in the Aqrah area.

8. On 12 August 1991, 10 helicopters flew in the Fayidah area at a low altitude, and this was followed by the flight of four other aircraft over the town of Dohuk.

My Government, as it protests vehemently against the violation of the integrity of Iraqi airspace and territory by the allied forces and aggression against its national sovereignty, also protests vehemently to the Turkish Government, because the helicopters entered Iraq across Turkish territory and through Turkish airspace, contrary to international law, the principles of good-neighbourliness and the Iraq-Turkey border treaty of 1926. It demands that it desist immediately from allowing the aircraft of the allied forces to use its airspace for aggression against the integrity and sovereignty of Iraq.

This behaviour on the part of the United States of America and its allies constitutes a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law, because it constitutes a flagrant attack on the sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations.

In informing you of these violations, I request you, in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Charter of the Organization, to take steps to ensure that they cease.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sabah Talat KADRAT
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.